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Senior Graduation Art Exhibition

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Established in 1935

Pirate basketball

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THE INKWELL

Week of December 3, 2009

theinkwellonline.com

Volume 78, Issue 31

AASU and SSU host business forum on landing jobs

By Tiffany Thornton
Staff Reporter

The AASU and Savannah State University (SSU) collegiate chapters of NAACP hosted "Give You the Business," a business forum and fashion show on Nov. 18 in the Armstrong Center Ballroom.

Both AASU and SSU chapters supported one another in a common goal.

"We needed some empowerment," said Ta'Kara Johnson, AASU NAACP treasurer.

The empowerment students received focused on how to enter the workplace and succeed.

Johnson, who coordinated the forum, said, "I wanted to give everybody the benefits of how to get there."

The forum offered tips on résumé building, interviewing, dressing for the workplace and being professional.

"We wanted to inform our students, especially our minority students about some

FORUM | PAGE 2

Underage student suffers seizure after drinking

By Stuart Grosse
Staff Reporter

Officer Perry of the University Police Department (UPD) was dispatched to Compass Point at 12:38 a.m. on Nov. 23 in response to a report of a female student having a seizure after consuming an unknown quantity of alcohol.

At that point, EMS was already en route with Sgt. Gorman set to escort them to the scene.

Upon reaching the scene, Officer Perry discovered a semi-conscious female sitting on the couch. A male who identified himself as her boyfriend said that she was hypoglycemic and had been drinking tequila earlier.

A second male was also present. None of the people

CRIME | PAGE 2

SGA discusses tuition deadline, parking

By Brad Curran
Staff Reporter

The Student Government Association (SGA) approved a resolution to meet with police Chief Wayne Willcox to issue complaints regarding the way in which the campus Parking Services have been monitoring student parking on Nov. 30.

Numerous students at the meeting voiced complaints that the parking monitors often drive recklessly on the sidewalks throughout campus while monitoring the parking activities of students, often showing little consideration for student safety.

The meeting between Willcox and the SGA will address these complaints.

The SGA's budget stands at \$4,570.

At the Nov. 23 meeting, SGA discussed the new deadline policies for tuition payment.

SGA | PAGE 2

AASU introduces new payment policies for spring 2010

By Ann Wilson
Staff Reporter

AASU faculty and staff have noticed a trend in declining payments and that the problem mostly comes from students who repeat nonpayment habits.

Enrollment services will drop students from spring semester classes who have not paid their total SHIP balances by Jan. 14.

"AASU is setting up a program of fiscal responsibility," said Melanie Mirande, director of operations, enrollment management.

The university is enforcing tuition payment policies due to students not paying their balance in the past.

As of Nov. 30, 1,562 stu-

dents owe \$2,046,549 in unpaid fees up to and including this semester.

Mirande said 712 students owe \$50 or less and 409 (26 percent) owe \$1,000 or more.

"Of the students that we looked at who would've been dropped from classes for nonpayment for the fall, of the 657 there were only 25 who were freshmen," said Lee Ann Kirkland, director of financial aid. "It's shifting back to student responsibility, to know that it's going to cost you something to come here. It isn't a free education. Know what it's going to cost you, know your eligibility, know if there are any gaps, work with us to help you."

There are three deadlines to pay the total cost: Dec. 15, Jan. 4, and Jan. 13 at midnight. The entire total must be paid in full by Jan. 14.

After each deadline, students will be removed from their classes and will have to re-register before attempting to pay.

"After the 14th [January] you can go to the Bursar's Office, pay the difference between what you owe and what is paid, and you can go to Victor Hall and get your schedule back," Mirande said.

Dec. 15 is the deadline for

Students' debts to AASU

1,562	Owe money
712	Owe \$50 or less
409	Owe \$1,000 or more

\$2,046,549	Total owed
\$845,742.13	By those owing \$1,000 or more

those who have no financial aid letters at all. If students have an award letter ensuring the presence of aid before Dec. 15, the remaining total must be paid in full by Jan. 14.

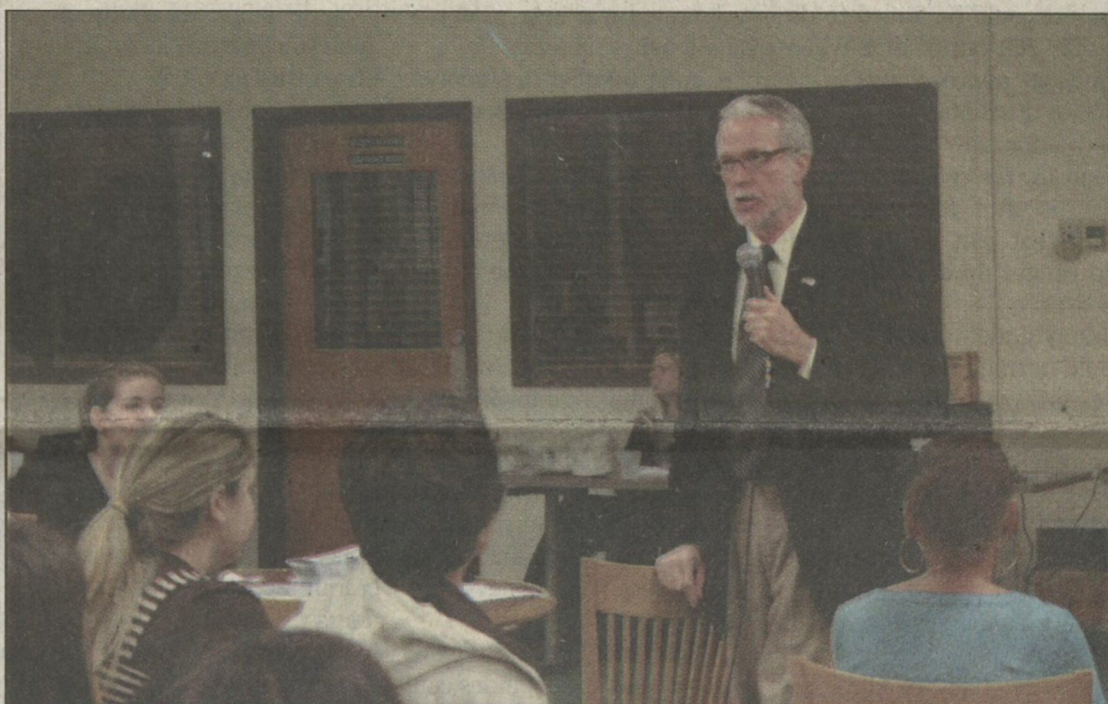
After classes are dropped, students can go to the Bursar's Office to discuss their

PAY | PAGE 2

AASU students get first hand look at hunger



A student at the Old Savannah City Mission, Rhnea Robinson, shares experiences from her life and explains how she became homeless.



Rev. Jim Lewis, executive director of the Old Savannah City Mission, shares his passionate view about the Mission and the people it has helped. He explains the Fresh Start program and encourages students to volunteer, and refers to the proverb, "I hear; I forget. I see; I remember. I do; I understand."

Photos by Amie Conley

Speakers from Old Savannah City Mission discuss hunger and homelessness

By Emily Murphy
Staff Reporter

AASU students were humbled and fed at University Housing and the Office of Multicultural Affairs' Hunger Awareness Banquet on Nov. 17.

Just in time for National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, students and staff gathered together to listen to guest speakers from the Old Savannah City Mission.

As each guest entered, he

or she received a ticket determining what was for dinner. Emulating the real life statistics, 15 percent of the guests received "high-income" tickets, allowing them to eat pasta garnished with vegetables and sauce, a side salad, and juice; 35 percent received "middle-income" tickets, which granted them a plate of rice with beans and a glass of ice water.

The remaining 50 percent received "low-income" tickets, representing the vast majority of the world, and enjoyed a

small plate of plain rice and ice water, giving all in attendance a glimpse of the struggle that hunger creates.

Rev. Jim Lewis, the executive director of the Old Savannah City Mission, informed guests about the Mission and what it does.

This year, he estimates that the Mission will serve somewhere between 130,000 and 140,000 meals to people in need and provide close to 28,000 nights of shelter.

All of this is done with pri-

vate funding from donors and minimal staff, relying mostly on volunteers.

The Mission offers several programs and services to those in need in Savannah.

In addition to their emergency services, the Mission offers the Urban Training Institute (UTI), which provides a means for the homeless, the addicted, and the convicted to find their way back into society.

HUNGER | PAGE 2

Blue Ribbon Child Abuse Awareness Team educates on child abuse prevention

By Kylie Horn
Staff Reporter

The Blue Ribbon Child Abuse Awareness Team set up a table in the University Hall courtyard on Nov. 18 to educate and raise awareness about the fight to prevent child abuse.

"It's a problem that's been hidden," said senior and member Kami Duong.

In 2008, there were 1,665 reported of child abuse in Chatham County alone the Chatham County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) reported.

"There's no reason for child abuse at a any age. It messes up a child; they don't function like normal kids," said senior and member Isabel Kearson.

Duong and Kearson held their awareness event because of a project assigned during a leadership class.

They both came to an immediate consensus since abuse was an area of interest.

The cause has taken an effect

on both of the ladies' lives.

"If I see a child crying, I won't forget about potential abuse. I don't just let it go," Duong said.

"I've gone through life and I realized I don't do enough. Sometimes you just think about yourself," Kearson said.

Kearson has recently started donating money to the Poster Child Advocacy Group, as well as volunteering.

"There are so many different types of abuse: physical, emotional, sexual. I see the young girls and young boys, and it breaks my heart," Kearson said.

The topic is especially prominent in Kearson's mind because there is child abuse within her family.

"Helping is not only for the kids, it's for me too," Kearson said.

She is now taking action within her family to stop the abuse.

"I want to be the first per-



Kami Duong, left, puts a blue ribbon pin on Khyler Powell's shirt in support of The Blue Ribbon Child Abuse Awareness on Nov. 18.

son to do something," Kearson said.

To help raise awareness, Kearson and Duong handed out free dark blue ribbons, the color for child abuse awareness. Also, they sold teddy bears, flags and pins for dona-

tions.

"If we only reach one person, it still makes a difference," Duong said.

All proceeds were donated to the Coastal Empire Raising Our Children Kindly (ROCK) group.

Check Inside

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Paul Fitzgerald

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'New Moon' coverage

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Where do you tattoo?

PAGE 6

Campus Briefs

AASU senior receives scholarship

Senior and Spanish major Luciana Tobal was awarded a scholarship by the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Georgia Foundation.

Tobal received the award during a ceremony in November.

Created in 1964, the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of Georgia Foundation has awarded nearly 1,000 scholarships for students who may not have the opportunity to attend college.

The Foundation awards full-tuition scholarships to non-research universities and colleges in the University System of Georgia.

AASU students attend symposium

Felix Hamza-Lup, professor of computer science, joined five of his students at the 2009 International Symposium for Mixed and Augmented Reality Researchers and Innovators (ISMAR) in Orlando, Fla., in November.

Augmented Reality (AR) builds on computer science and application to combine real physical environments with computer-generated images.

This event is a mixture of conference, tutorials and expos.

This year's event was divided into three tracks: science and technology; arts, media and humanity; and a tutorial track.

For more information contact Felix.Hamza-Lup@armstrong.edu or visit <http://cs.armstrong.edu/felix>.

End of semester dates

The last day of classes is Dec. 7 and final exams begin Dec. 8; the last day for finals is Dec. 14.

Final grades are due Dec. 17 at 9 a.m.

Winter break begins Dec. 23 and school will resume Jan. 11.

NEWS

- Dec. 4: Health Sciences Department Exit Exam in Ashmore Hall 235 from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
- Dec. 7: Last Day of Classes
Student Government Association meeting in Solms Hall 108 from noon-1 p.m.
- Dec. 9: Compass English/Math/ Reading Exit Exams in the Armstrong Center 112 from 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

PAY | FROM PAGE 1

student account and can pay any outstanding charges. Classes can be reinstated up to Jan. 29.

"It's just a bad practice for the students at the university. Students are already stressed over midterms, let alone getting kicked out of classes and not being able to pay for housing. It's just bad for everybody,"

"If you get financial aid and you don't get it until some time in December, you're not going to be able to register until you get it some time in December."

In November, the Board of Regents (BoR) announced a \$75 increase in the mandatory fee that students pay each semester. AASU recognizes that the increase was unexpected and that many people are not prepared to pay the new fee. Mirande said AASU officials are working on allowing a \$75 maximum to go unpaid. The \$75 allowance has not yet been confirmed.

Students who have received their financial aid award letter will be able to keep their classes as long as the award is within the dead-

lines.

"If you get financial aid and you don't get it until some time in December, you're not going to be able to register until you get it some time in December."

Many students have already received their financial aid awards for the 2009-2010 school year, Randall, Mirande and Kirkland think that spring semester was "least harmful" time to begin the new policy.

"We will be doing a great deal of effort in promoting getting people to do their financial aid early next year to set up the 2010-2011 school year. This is a good time to come in to make sure that you get everything taken care of," Kirkland said.

CRIME | FROM PAGE 1

on the scene were of legal age for alcohol consumption. A total of eight students admitted to drinking in two rooms.

While investigating the incident, Officer Perry noticed three white males sitting on the stairs nearby, who claimed not to be involved. Witness statements contradicted this claim, and when Officer Perry went to question them about it,

they were gone. However, one of them left his wallet, shoes and backpack in the room. Those items were confiscated, along with several empty beer and liquor bottles as well as a bottle of Captain Morgan rum.

All parties wrote sworn statements, the CAs on duty took down all pertinent information, and Sgt. Gorman also provided a supplemental report. UPD is still working this case.

HUNGER | FROM PAGE 1

A soon-to-be graduate of the UTI, Rhnea Robinson, stood up and told her story.

Driving even herself to tears, she trudged through her personal tale of sleeping on the streets, addiction and prostitution.

But hardship did not bring her down. Robinson arrived at the Mission last January, and since her arrival she has been clean and sober. She was accepted to Savannah Tech and was able to see her daughter for the first time in years. Her message is clear and powerful.

"Love works. God has given me an amazing opportunity. I believe that it is absolutely necessary for each one to reach one. We have to remember that the next homeless person could be us," Robinson said.

Robinson is not the only person at the Mission with a story to tell. Each and every "friend and neighbor" there has something to say.

The best way to hear these stories is to volunteer. Visit www.oscm.org or call the Mission directly at 232-1979 to learn more about opportunities to help those in need and to learn more about the Old Savannah City Mission.

AASU students prepare for upcoming final exams to end fall semester

By Mary Mahoney
Staff Reporter

AASU students are beginning to think about final exams, which will start Dec. 8 and continue through Dec. 14.

Preparing for finals for most students is a semester long activity of keeping up with readings and reviewing notes.

For some students, studying begins the week before exams start and trickles down to cramming the night before.

One thing that almost all students agree on is the importance of time management.

Setting aside time for studying between classes and everyday things will make it easier to ensure enough time is spent studying.

Arranging a schedule for studying and setting priorities can enable students to focus the right amount of attention on each exam. It will also less-

en the amount of cramming a student could be forced to do as they run out of time when exams are approaching.

Most students give up one very important thing while preparing for upcoming finals. Sleep is often seen as something that can be sacrificed and caught up on after finals are over.

Many students use time they would normally be sleeping to cram before a test.

For those students not getting enough sleep, caffeine is something they cannot study without.

Coffee, energy drinks and soda are all used by students to stay up and feel alert.

Megan Neher, a postgraduate student, "studies a little bit every night and drinks lots of coffee."

While caffeine can help students stay awake, scheduling time for sleeping and taking

naps can be helpful, as being well rested can help students have a better memory.

A great number of students use tricks to help them remember things.

Senior Rebecca Adams, uses "mnemonic devices to make a saying where the first letter for every word is one of the things I have to know."

Using similar tricks can be helpful when memorizing large amounts of information.

The best way many students study is by reviewing notes and keeping up with readings throughout the semester so that they are familiar with most of the material they must know.

Taking advantage of review sessions and study guides can also be valuable tools when preparing for an exam. For most students, preparing for exams is simple.

"Running through the notes and chapters once again and taking a look at previous tests," said sophomore Aras Medzev-

icius.

Students should choose a good study setting and minimize distractions.

Noise from friends, roommates, a television or any other source can make focusing nearly impossible. Whether cramming or just having a regular study session, anything that can cause a disturbance will hinder learning.

While most students agree that time management is the most important thing to remember when preparing for exams, there are always many students who end up cramming. For these students the best thing to do is to be realistic.

Knowing what is most important to study and understanding how much can actually be accomplished can be helpful. Students can receive the most benefits from cramming by prioritizing study materials and remembering not to panic.

AASU chemistry lab goes green

By Tanya Jones
Staff Reporter

The AASU Chemistry and Physics department recently received a grant for \$192,595 from the National Science Foundation to support the transformation of the existing labs to environmentally friendly laboratories.

"Guiding General Chemistry Laboratory Toward a Green Revolution: An Inquiry Approach" is the name of the project manifested from the grant.

The project is designed to engage students taking general chemistry in group problem solving relevant to current environmental issues.

Dr. Will Lynch, chemistry and physics department head, said that waste reduction and the use of water-based chemistry instead of organic-based chemistry are the two main factors that set the green lab apart from the traditional labs.

After conducting experiments with water-based chemicals, the disposal will be less harmful to the environment and more cost efficient for the department.

Students are expected to perform lab experiments individually through "guided inquiry," a new method of lab operation, which requires students to work in teams.

The students will actually design and develop lab experiments on their own. The grant

will allow the students to go beyond mere cookbook labs, where they concoct chemicals together and observe the reaction.

"There are 10 projects with 'green themes,' an acid rain lab and a bio-diesel lab are a couple of the experiments we have lined up," Lynch said.

This new method will allow students to be more engaged and proactive in chemistry.

In fall of 2010, students will work on refinement of ores, soil and water analysis and synthesis of nanoparticles and biodiesel. Experiments lined up for the following spring include working with rain, fuel cells, air pollution and environmental research.

Lynch said that the department is reinventing what students do in the lab to engage them in more challenging activities in hopes that it will motivate students to continue their scientific studies.

Half of the grant money will go toward the redevelopment and reinvention of the green lab activities that will cover the employment of staff and students workers.

Co-principal investigators on the grant are Todd Hizer, Eric Werner, Lea Padgett, Josh Smith and Cathy MacGowan.

Lynch said the other half will go towards purchasing high-end instrumentation for lab experimentation.

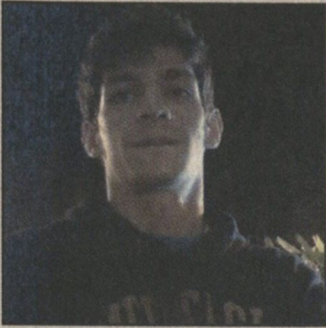
Campus Life

Where we ask you what you think.

Reported by Joshua Guallett
Staff Reporter

Voices on Campus

"How do you like to be tested and why?"



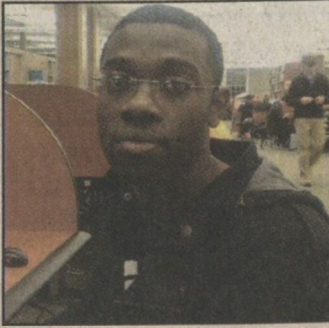
"Short answer and key terms."
Aaron Odum, political science, junior



"I like short essays and simple answer questions."
Rhonda Cannon, biology, senior



"I like short answer because you can generalize answers and you are more likely to get it right. Also, you can show the professor what you really know."
Megan Hendley, communication sciences and disorders, graduate student



"I like multiple choice because it basically helps you remember basic information that you forgot about. Instead of just blank paper."
Tremell Neal, computer science, freshman

Get more opinions at www.theinkwellonline.com

Six by Six

Six students answer in six words.

"How do you cram for finals?"

"Studying all night and energy drinks."
Catherine Green, biomedical, junior

"I study an hour each day."
Emanuel Boafa, biology, freshman

"Large quantities of Adderall all day."
Chris Gaggans, music, sophomore

"Too much coffee and no sleep."
Ajannah Newland, physical therapy, graduate student

"I can't cram; I have ADHD."
Ashley Ketchup, nursing, sophomore

"In the library with a Coke."
John Casteel, nursing, graduate student

Do you agree? Or are they way off? Visit www.theinkwellonline.com and click the Campus Life tab, then weigh in with your opinion on this week's topics.

FORUM | FROM PAGE 1

of the ins and outs of how to conduct yourself in the workplace," said Brian Dawsey, AASU NAACP adviser.

Special guests presented the information with handouts, tips, skits and modeling. Guests included Barbara Meyers, AASU's director of career services, SSU's Iota Phi Lambda, Achievers of Today and Tomorrow (ATnT) and Supreme Elegance Fashion Agency.

Meyers discussed basics on creating a résumé and expectations of the employer and suggested available resources for students.

Iota Phi Lambda's business sorority addressed women in the workplace and their take on accepted attire and appearance. They suggested modest color choices for clothing, hair and makeup.

The sorority also offered tips and benefits of having professional portfolios and business cards.

Through a skit, ATnT pre-

sented the basics of proper male business attire and how to make a lasting impression during an interview.

"By simply the way you're dressed, that speaks volumes at what type of person you may be," Dawsey said.

He said that employees should learn the standard dress code for organizations they work for.

Supreme Elegance modeled examples of appropriate and inappropriate clothes to wear in the work place and professional settings.

Dawsey said it is important that students know how to enter the workplace and make a positive first impression as well as maintain it.

The forum provided students an opportunity to benefit from working together to succeed in the job market.

"If I'm having a hard time, I have a fellow colleague that can help me get there," Johnson said.

SGA | FROM PAGE 1

Students can stay up to date on their indebtedness to AASU with the newly installed "What You Owe" option located on the financial aid and account pages on the AASU web site.

The last SGA meeting of the semester is Dec. 7 from noon-1 p.m. in Solms Hall Room 108. Look online for coverage.

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THE INKWELL

Spring semester 2010 / Apply by Friday, Dec. 11

Layout Editor

This is a portfolio-building opportunity for an aspiring **graphic designer**. Get professional-style production experience and opportunities to push your skills within the print medium.

Experience with **Adobe InDesign** is recommended but not required. Comfort and experience with **InDesign**, **Photoshop**, and **Illustrator** are major pluses.

Availability on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. through the evening for production is required. Self-scheduled availability on Monday evenings for pre-production tasks is recommended.

Applicants are encouraged to bring a portfolio to their interviews.

Spring semester 2010 / Apply by Friday, Dec. 11

Sports Editor

Interested in a career in **sports journalism**? Well, you have the chance to manage the coverage of conference and **national champion** sports teams.

You'll assign writers to cover sports, health and wellness stories and cover student athletes at the top of their game.

Time management and leadership skills are necessities; previous journalism experience is a plus.

How to apply for editor-level positions:

Fill out the Student Leadership Application available outside of the Student Activities office at MMC Room 210 and return it to their office, or apply online at http://sa.armstrong.edu/Activities/online_app.html

E-mail chief.inkwell@gmail.com

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

The Inkwell welcomes and invites letters to the editor. All submissions must be less than 350 words, and they must be signed. E-mail your submission to inkwell@armstrong.edu.

Opinions expressed in op/ed columns or in editorial cartoons do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the newspaper.

The Inkwell reserves the right to edit for grammar and spelling.

Letter to the editor

Racism is a growing problem that affects lifestyles across the globe. This hatred of people is caused by fear. People are scared to accept what seems to be unacceptable, which leads to a division based on apprehension. Living in the south, we experience racism all the time and see the division and judgment that has grown as a result. Racism has led to increased crime among different races. An increase in crime has led to increased fear and opposition towards the other race. While some are being taught that racism is a way of life, others are racist due to a lack of hope for any future change. If we don't end this environment of fear and apathy, we will continue to live in a world of hostility and separation.

As young adults, we need to understand racism, evaluate our thoughts and behavior, and take on a leadership role to implement change. In order to solve a problem, you have to understand it. We recently had the opportunity to interview several Armstrong students and faculty and get their perspectives on racism. We found that many agreed that racism was a growing problem and understood the desperate need for a solution to this problem. We wanted to evaluate why people believe that racism is problematic. During the interview, each person was asked to define his or her race and also list or explain any racial "slurs" or slang that were personally offensive. If we want to avoid hostility, we need to be aware of and avoid any actions or words that are offensive to others. On a more personal level, we asked each individual to discuss an

experience that involved racist behavior towards them. It was interesting to see how quickly each person was able to recall an experience and give such detail, regardless of when it occurred. If racism was significantly declining, then people would probably struggle to recall such experiences. It became quite obvious that people may forgive, but they don't forget. What lasting impression or memory do we want to leave with another individual?

So, where do we go from here? As young adults, we can lead by example. We need to be a positive influence on our family and friends and avoid any controversial behavior. You have to live by example for people to believe in you and your words. If we could learn to be leaders for our community, then we could help change the problem. If this racial divide is based on fear and apprehension, then as college students, we need to take advantage of opportunities to learn more about each other by taking a course that involves the study of another culture or race. The diversity of the Armstrong student body allows us to interact with people of a different race and build relationships based on common interests, which would ultimately decrease the racial hostility and separation. The problem is defined and evident but can't be conquered without leadership. Who will make the first move to change this way of life and help create a positive environment without racism for the younger generation?

Lauren Ryle and
Servando Santiago

Rules are made to be changed

The Inkwell Editorial Board

Students paying for spring semester might be stunned to find their mandatory fee has doubled to \$150.

Student Government Association (SGA) President Tamer Amer said that he and other members of the Student Advisory Council (SAC) were surprised to find out about the increase at their Nov. 6-7 meeting with the Board of Regents (BoR).

When the BoR approved the original fee in December 2008, then-SGA President Somi Benson-Jaja led the call for a resolution opposing the fee and the way the BoR went about its implementation. The SGA's main point of contention was that the BoR waived its own policy that any proposal to increase mandatory fees must first be presented to a council at least 50 percent composed of students.

On June 9 the board responded and revised its policy.

Section 704.021 of The Policy Manual now reads that fee increase proposals

shall be presented to that student council, "except in special circumstances when a general purpose fee is instituted system-wide by the Board of Regents."

This time, if members of the SGA chooses to pass another resolution, they will have to focus on something other than the BoR simply breaking their own rules, which was the SGA's strongest point against the fee's creation.

The BoR said in a press release that the increase in the mandatory fee is in response to a sky-rocketing student population in concert with more rounds of budget cuts.

The University of California's BoR recently saw the effects sizeable tuition hikes have on a student body whose voice in the legislative process has been silenced. Students protested to make sure they were heard.

Despite the near riot situation, the board approved the 32 percent hike, so it would be easy to say that the students' actions had no effect.

It would also be wrong. Change does not happen overnight, but those students held the California BoR's feet to the fire.

Representatives uttered phrases such as, "In the future," or, "Next time." They know that the recession fallout is far from over and they will need to make difficult decisions again.

And they know the next time they need a cash cow, their knee-jerk reaction to milk the students will not go over so easy.

Georgia's population does not seem disposed to protesting the government or its representatives, but AASU's SGA did just that along with other student governments across the state.

It is important enough to whom the SGA represents to let the BoR know that it is accountable for its actions and that students will not look the other way while back-door motions are passed.

Doubling a \$75 fee is not as harsh as the \$2,500 California students recently protested, but the BoR showed with its June '9 meeting that there is zero interest in student input.

Students do not have a choice but to pay the fee if they hope to continue with their higher education at AASU, but that does not mean they also do not have a voice.

Perhaps a reduction in Georgia lotto profits or special-interest taxes could help maintain state schools, which after all, are attended by citizens who generally hope to become productive, tax-paying employees or business owners.

Protest is not always chains on doors, marches and riot police. Pick up a pen, pull out the laptop or make a phone call: let the BoR and your representatives know that students and education should be priorities in Georgia.

Tell Georgia to look for revenue sources that do not raid students' already meager checking accounts.

Just like the BoR, you can change the rules.

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By Luke Farmer
Web Editor

At West Point on Tuesday evening, President Obama officially announced his plan to send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan. This will raise the number of American soldiers to just under 100,000 by mid-2011.

Paradoxically, this is being billed as a way for the United States to separate itself from the conflict...in the long run of course. First we need to increase the size of the Afghan army and national police force by 400,000 men and train them to be less corrupt, less illiterate and less afraid to fight.

We also have to reassert control over much of the territory lost to Taliban control in the last few years and give farmers a reason to stop growing poppies, which only fund further terrorist activities.

We have to do all this in a country where the central government has only a little more legitimacy than a man claiming his suburban house is a sovereign nation. And we're going to do it in 18 months and then the president has promised to start bringing the troops home.

There are a whole mess of problems in all of that, not the least of which is that it seems highly unlikely that 400,000 new soldiers and

Why it matters Advance to withdraw

...the problem is how much time, money and blood do we want to pour into making a modern nation-state out of a place that has never really been one.

a place that has never really been one.

The president took a long time in coming to this conclusion—a welcome change from the previous administration's dart board-like decision making—but it seems he really only talked to the Pentagon, lots of different generals, but still just generals. And what do generals always want more of? Troops. If they just had a few thousand more men, a few hundred more tanks, a few more squadrons of helicopters, then, and only then could we finish the job and have the tickertape parade.

We're sinking money

and lives into a place that we have no real interest in any longer: Bin Laden fled to the mountains of Pakistan in 2001, and recently the Taliban has heavily distanced themselves from him. I'm not saying we should take them at their word, but he's not involved in that conflict much anymore and then the question becomes whether we should get involved in their civil war.

Furthermore, we should be much more concerned with the rapid weakening of Pakistan's civilian government in the face of continued terrorist attacks, because that country has about 100 nuclear weapons.

On top of that, they will never help us truly get rid of the Taliban in Afghanistan, because for years before 9/11 they used it as a proxy against India.

Sending 30,000 more troops into a quagmire will not help us, which was the whole point of going to war there in the first place. We didn't storm in to make friends and dig wells; we can't start pretending now that we are there for anything other than our own self interest, and that interest is no longer being served in any practical way. And we can still dig the wells and build schools, that's what foreign aid is for.

Luke Farmer's views are his own and do not necessarily represent those of The Inkwell Editorial Board.

SPORTS

Dec. 5: Women's basketball at Augusta State 5:30 p.m.
Men's basketball at Augusta State 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 15: Men's basketball vs. Allen 7 p.m.
Dec. 18: Women's basketball vs. Edward Waters 6 p.m. @ 2009 Hampton Inn & Suites Fall Finals Classic
Men's basketball vs. Mount Olive 8 p.m. @ 2009 Hampton Inn & Suites Fall Finals Classic
Dec. 19: Women's basketball vs. Tampa 6 p.m. @ 2009 Hampton Inn & Suites Fall Finals Classic
Men's basketball vs. Lenior-Rhyne 8 p.m.
Dec. 29: Men's basketball vs. Voorhees 7 p.m. @ Hampton Inn & Suites Holiday Classic
Dec. 30: Men's basketball vs. Wingate 7 p.m. @ Hampton Inn & Suites Holiday Classic

AASU breaks four-game losing streak against Pfeiffer



Arpine Amirkhanyan attempts to box out two Pfeiffer defenders to get the rebound on Nov. 29. Amirkhanyan calls for the ball in the paint while being defended by Olivia Surratt.

Lady Pirates claim first win of season in home opener

By Tiffany Thornton
Staff Reporter

The AASU women's basketball team (1-4) picked up its first win of the season at home in style with an 88-81 over the Pfeiffer Lady Falcons (1-3) on Nov. 29.

The non-divisional game may prove to be a much-needed victory for the Lady Pirates as they head into their first Peach Belt Conference game of the season



Photo by Margaret Davis

Dartayvia Thomas sneaks in for the easy backdoor lay up.

at Augusta State University on Dec. 5.

Head coach Matt Schmidt said that when you're 0-4, you always worry about the fifth game.

So far this season the Lady Pirates have struggled to close out their competition. In the four previous games this season, despite each of the games being close at the end, the team failed to finish strong and pick up its first win.

The Lady Pirates took advantage of the repeated turnovers and shaky defense from the Lady Falcons. AASU forced Pfeiffer into 25 turnovers in the game.

In the first half, AASU kept possession away from Pfeiffer's offense thanks in part to steals by seniors Portia Jones and Dartayvia Thomas, who each collected three in the game.

The Falcons also struggled with defending key players, leaving AASU play-

ers wide-open shot chances. With no hesitation and just seconds apart, senior Lauren Hall knocked down back-to-back 3-pointers to keep her team in front.

The Lady Pirates had a solid hold on the lead after Hall knocked down the third of her five shots from behind the arc, well into the first half.

The Lady Falcons did manage to get to the basket. Pfeiffer kept the score close as they got the ball to the low post and got important rebounds against the Lady Pirates during the game.

"I thought we struggled with dribble penetration," Schmidt said. "And they just got to the basket way too easy on us, so I thought that was a big factor in the ball



game."

AASU toughened up for a stronger second half to close out the game.

"It was a matter of doing the little things correctly," Schmidt said. "We showed a lot of grit and attitude, which was positive to see."

Hall led AASU with a game high 24 points and Arpine Amirkhanyan followed with 19 points and 15 rebounds. Brooke Long finished exceptionally 10-of-10 from the free throw line.

Brittany Cox and Domonique China lead the Lady Falcons with 12 points apiece. And junior Devona Knight doubled up with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Game results for Nov. 29		
AASU def. Pfeiffer 88-81		
	Vs.	
44.3	FG %	48.5
52.9	3-Pt. %	66.7
78.1	FT %	65.0
23	TO	25

No. 4 Florida Southern outlasts Pirates, 80-70



Freshman David Pruett makes a 3-pointer and is fouled by Florida Southern's Brandon Jenkins on Nov. 29.

Courtesy of Sports Communications

The NABC NCAA Division II No. 4-ranked Florida Southern College (FSC) Moccasins received a game challenge from the short-handed AASU Pirates men's basketball team, but pulled away late to pick up an 80-70 victory on Nov. 29 at Alumni Arena.

The Mocs (5-0) led by just two, 61-59, with 6:01 remaining, but went on a 17-7 run over the next four minutes – featuring four Brandon Jenkins 3-point shots – to open up a 78-66 advantage and go on for the 10-point win over the Pirates (2-2).

Due to injuries, AASU suited up just seven men for the contest, but got plenty of production from senior Patrick Shokpeka, who hit 11-of-20 shots

from the floor, including two-of-three 3-pointers, en route to a career-high 28 points.

Sophomore Chris Vanlandingham added 14 points and freshman Arris Brundidge notched 12 points for the Pirates.



FSC's Jenkins finished the day 10-of-14 from the floor, including 6-of-8 on 3-pointers, en route to 26 points for the Mocs. John Thompson added 16 points and nine rebounds, while Rion Rayfield added 15 points, nine assists and three steals.

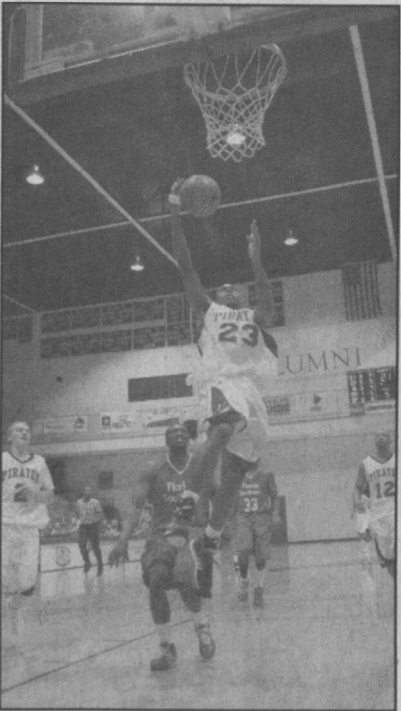
The Pirates face their second top-10 ranked foe in a week when AASU opens up its Peach Belt Conference season with a 7:30 p.m. game at No. 6 Augusta State University on Dec. 5, in Augusta, Ga.



Photos by Hank Sharpe

Freshman Arris Brundidge goes for a lay up against FSC at the AASU Alumni Arena on Nov. 29.

Game results for Nov. 29		
No.4 Florida Southern def. AASU 80-70		
	Vs.	
42.9	FG %	48.3
60.0	3-Pt. %	48.0
55.6	FT %	62.5
13	TO	17



Senior Gabriel Robinson makes a break-away lay up after a Mocs turnover on the opposite end of the court.

AASU places six on PBC women's soccer All-Academic Team

Courtesy of Sports Communications

The AASU women's soccer squad placed six players on the Peach Belt Conference's (PBC) women's soccer All-Academic Teams, league officials released on Nov. 24.

Senior forward Kristin Burton, a three-time CoSIDA Academic All-America honoree, was named to the first team. The PBC's all-time leading goal scorer carries a 3.68 GPA in physical therapy and this is her second appearance on the All-Academic team, which the conference began naming in 2008.

The Pirates placed a pair of players on the second team with junior goalkeeper Tracey Mitchell and sophomore defender

Jessy Flores. Mitchell has a 3.58 GPA in health science and Flores carries a 3.55 GPA in radiological sciences – both players earned All-Academic team honors for the first time in their careers.

AASU placed three players on the fourth team to round out its honorees. Junior midfielder Elizabeth Kerkhoff, sophomore midfielder Björg Magnea Ólafs and sophomore forward Þórdís Pétursdóttir each earned fourth team honors for the first times in their careers. Kerkhoff is an education major with a 3.48 GPA; Ólafs maintains a 3.42 GPA in engineering and Pétursdóttir has a 3.42 GPA in biology.

In all, the PBC honored 44 players on the four teams.

Pirates earns volleyball All-Region honors

Courtesy of Sports Communications

AASU freshman setter Kristin Standhardinger picked up a pair of region honors as the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) and Daktronics both released their NCAA Division II Southeast Region volleyball teams on Nov. 24.

Standhardinger was named the AVCA Southeast Region Freshman of the Year for leading the Pirates to their second straight NCAA Championships berth.

The Munich, Germany, native tallied 1,363 assists – averaging 10.25 assists per set, good for second in the Peach Belt Conference (PBC) and 42nd in NCAA Division II. She also collected 135 kills and 305 digs on the year.

She is just the second AASU player to earn AVCA Region Freshman of the Year honors, joining Traci Knuth, who earned the honor in 2004.

Standhardinger was also

one of three Pirates to earn All-Southeast Region honors by the AVCA, joining her twin sister Kathrin Standhardinger, as well as senior Michele Remlinger. The pair of middle hitters ranked 1-2 in the PBC in hitting percentage as Kathrin Standhardinger hit .390 and Remlinger hit .357.

Kathrin Standhardinger is ranked 12th in NCAA Division II in hitting percentage and led the Pirates this season in kills with 339.

Remlinger, a native of Kalida, Ohio, ranks 27th in NCAA Division II and finished her two-year career as the top hitting player in AASU history with a career .356 hitting percentage.

The other Southeast Region team announced on Nov. 24 came courtesy of Daktronics and CoSIDA, where Kristin Standhardinger earned first-team All-Region setter honors.

All three honorees will advance to national balloting for possible All-America honors.

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Baseball, softball, basketball and - oh yeah - the 2008-2009 Division II tennis national champions are all proof that sports are alive and well at AASU. Get close to the players and the action

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Newberry Slips Past Lady Pirates, 64-61

Courtesy of Sports Communications

NEWBERRY, S.C. – The AASU women's basketball team sunk a season-high 12 3-pointers but could not get the tying one to drop in the final 10 seconds in a 64-61 loss at Newberry College on Nov. 25.

The Lady Pirates (0-4) trailed Newberry (3-1) by six points, 64-58, after a jumper by Jessica Bearzatto with 59 seconds remaining. Portia Jones, however, brought the Lady Pirates back to within a possession with a three-pointer with 53 seconds left.

A missed jumper by Bearzatto with 21 seconds remaining gave the Lady Pirates one last possession to tie, but Jones' attempt was off the mark with eight seconds remaining. AASU got the offensive rebound, but a two-point attempt by Dartayvia Thomas missed

as time expired, giving Newberry the victory.

Senior Lauren Hall led the Lady Pirates in scoring for a second consecutive game, hitting 7-of-9 shots from the floor – including 6-of-8 3-pointers – for a game-high 20 points. Sophomore Brooke Long chipped in 18 points off the bench for AASU.

Newberry placed four players in double figures, led by Helen McKinney's 14 points and 13 points from Anita Bulcher. Bearzatto added 12 and LeAnne Watson notched 10. Bulcher led all players in rebounding with 12, giving her a double-double on the night.

AASU's 12 3-pointers were the most for the Lady Pirates since Nov. 16, 2008, when they hit 12 shots from beyond the arc in a 78-76 win at Concord University (W. Va.).

Know a sports story we should cover? E-mail the the sports editor at sports.inkwell@gmail.com.

Have an opinion on something we covered? Send a letter to the editor at inkwell@armstrong.edu.

Fitzgerald wants one more championship

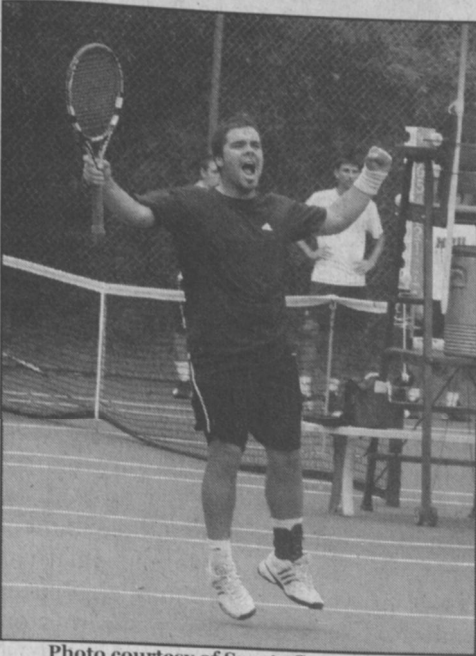


Photo courtesy of Sports Communications
Senior Paul Fitzgerald readily accepts his role as a leader on the AASU men's tennis team.

By Margo Rose
Staff Reporter

Returning to AASU for his senior year, Paul Fitzgerald looks to make his last year a memorable one as the AASU tennis team tries to make history by winning its

third consecutive NCAA Division II National Championship.

Originally from Cork, Ireland, Fitzgerald picked up his first tennis racket at the age of seven and has not stopped playing since.

All those years of playing certainly paid off for Fitzgerald. At 17 he was ranked the number one men's tennis player for the country of Ireland.

Upon coming to the United States, Fitzgerald first attended and played for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga., before transferring over to AASU his junior year.

"When I was looking for a place to go to school, I heard of Armstrong and

their achievements at the time, and I knew it would be a good place to win a national title," Fitzgerald said. "I felt as though I would be a good fit for the team."

The Pirates won their second consecutive NCAA Division II men's tennis National Championship during his first year playing for AASU.

"I really see myself as a leader, and I want what's best for the team."

Fitzgerald indeed was a perfect fit for the Pirates. He is currently nationally ranked 38th in Division II by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and No. 9 in the Southeast Region.

With Fitzgerald as the only senior on the team, he has a big responsibility to lead the reigning national champions, but he has shown thus far he has the

ability to do it.

"I really see myself as a leader, and I want what's best for the team," Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald's coach Simon Earnshaw has the utmost faith in his player's ability to lead by example and be a good role model for the incoming players.

"While the team will have several players with a lot of experience, we will also have four new players so it will be important for the returning players to carry a lot of the load and be an example for each of the new guys," Earnshaw said. "Paul is the only senior and this is a boom or bust year, so hopefully he will use his experience not only for his own benefit, but of that for the team."

Fitzgerald is majoring in physical education at AASU and aspires to teach. He wants to show kids that they have the potential to go far in life by pushing

Pirates' Plunder

AASU Sports Trivia, previews and more

By Luke Armstrong
Sports Editor, sports.inkwell@gmail.com

AASU Sports Trivia

- 1.) Men's basketball plays Augusta State on Dec. 5. What is AASU's all-time record against them?
- 2.) When was the last time the Pirates pulled off a win against the Jaguars of Augusta State?
- 3.) When was the last time the men's team lost a game during the winter break tournaments they host each year?
- 4.) So far this season, who leads the Pirate men's team in point scored?
- 5.) What was this year's starting guard Patrick Shokpeka's point total for the 2008-2009 season?

Check your answers at the bottom of the page.

Vanlandingham leads Pirates in home opener against Brewton-Parker

By Juan Dorado
Staff Reporter

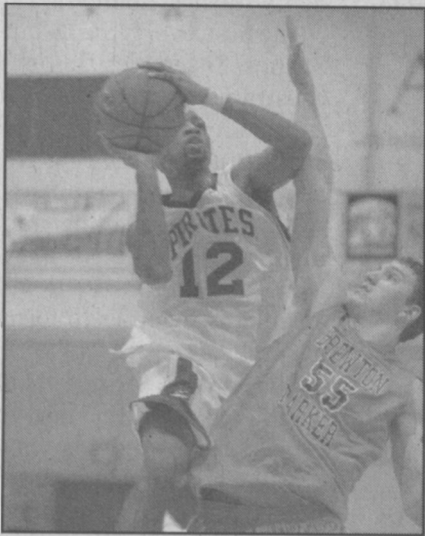
Strong guard play and a stifling defense gave AASU back-to-back wins after dropping their season opening game.

The Pirates had to make up for a short bench and slow start against the Brewton-Parker College (BPC) Barons in order to pick up the win on Nov. 21 at Alumni Arena.

The Barons started off the game playing aggressive defense that created a couple of Pirate turnovers, resulting in easy buckets in the first five minutes of the game. This combined with spotty shooting held AASU to eight points in the first eight minutes of the game.

However, the Pirates found the answer in back-up guard Chris Vanlandingham. The sophomore's wide open 3-pointer at the 10-minute mark brought the score to 15-15. But that wasn't all; he scored five of the next six buckets giving the Pirates a one-point lead at 24-23.

Both teams exchanged points for the next couple of minutes, and the Pirates looked to take a four-point

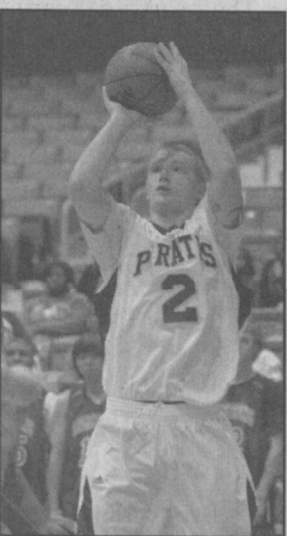


AASU senior Patrick Shokpeka adds one of his 14 points to the board despite an attempt by Brewton-Parker's Tim Jickell to block the shot.

lead to half, until Patrick Shokpeka stole the ball with 5.0 seconds left. Shokpeka hit a fastbreak lay up at the buzzer to close the half at 34-28.

AASU came out of the locker room wanting to push the lead to double digits, but the Barons countered early, closing the gap to 34-32, after Corey Roth drained a jumper from the right wing.

Despite early second half troubles, the Pirate defense clamped down and played their patented base defense, 1-2-2 half-court trap, which



(Center) AASU sophomore Chris Vanlandingham led the Pirates with a career-high 29 points. (Right) Vanlandingham receives double coverage as he goes up for a shot against Brewton-Parker on Nov. 21.

created 9 turnovers in the second half.

Five minutes into the second half, Shokpeka hit a wide-open jumper to push the AASU lead to 10, leaving the BPC scrambling for answers. Those answers were nowhere to be found as the trap continued to stifle the Barons' desperation shots, which allowed the Pirates to take a 14-point lead with 6:14 in the game.

The Barons found a small crack in the trap and whittled a 14-point Pirate lead down to eight with just over three minutes left in the game, but



Photos by Stephen Berend



it was too little too late as they didn't draw any closer than seven points.

The Pirates iced the game at the free throw line, winning 81-74. Vanlandingham led all scorers on the night with 29, going 10-13 shooting from the floor and 8-11 from the free throw line.

The home opener was the first win for new head coach Jeremy

Luther at Alumni Arena, but he knows the team has a lot of work to do.

"You're always happy with a win, but we have to learn to take better advantage of our opportunities," Luther said.

Game results for Nov. 21		
AASU def. Brewton Parker 81-74		
	Vs.	
44.8	FG %	45.2
25.0	3-Pt. %	23.1
57.6	FT %	68.2
22	TO	23

Bucs top Lady Pirates, 69-60, on Nov. 21

Courtesy of
Sports Communications

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The AASU women's basketball squad suffered its third straight loss to open up the 2009-10 season, dropping a 69-60 decision to Barry University on the final day of the 2009 NSU/Marriott TipOff Classic in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., on Nov. 21.

The Lady Pirates (0-3) shot just 38.6 percent from the floor and committed 26 turnovers; while Barry (1-1)

picked up its first win of the season by hitting 42.6 percent from the floor.

AASU led by one at half-time, 33-32, but Barry opened the second half with an 11-3 run to take the lead.

The Lady Pirates tied it late on a Marissa Rimbart lay-up, evening the score at 51-all with 4:49 left, but Barry scored three straight times down the court to build a 57-51 lead and pulled away for the win.

Senior Lauren Hall led a trio of Lady Pirates that

scored in double figures with 15 points. Sophomore Brooke Long added 11 points and senior Portia Jones collected 10. Hall was named as part of a five-person All-Tournament team, selected on Nov. 21.

Barry was led by Mariesa Greene's game-high 30 points on 13-of-19 shooting from the floor, including 4-of-11 from the free throw line, to go with 11 rebounds. Jennifer Lopez added 13 and Tilde Ahlin chipped in 11.

Nova Southeastern edges past the Lady Pirates, 70-69

Courtesy of
Sports Communications

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Abbie Tepe sank one of two free throws with four seconds remaining, snapping a 69-all tie and giving the host Nova Southeastern University (NSU) Sharks a 70-69 women's college basketball victory over visiting AASU in the 2009 NSU/Marriott TipOff Classic on Nov. 20.

The Sharks (1-1) erased an eight-point second-half deficit to take a three-point lead, 69-66, with 20 seconds left on a pair of free throws by Erin Zampell.

The Pirates (0-2) tied things up on a 3-pointer by

Lauren Hall with 13 seconds remaining.

Tepe was then fouled by AASU's Brooke Long with only four seconds left in the game and sank the first of two free throws.

On the second miss, NSU's Meloney Fosburgh grabbed the offensive rebound, missed a lay up, but time ran out before the Pirates could attempt a possible game-winning shot.

The Pirates were led by senior Portia Jones, who hit 6-of-16 shots from the field, including 4-of-8 3-pointers, as well as 6-of-9 shots from the free throw line for a game-high 22 points.

Hall added 17 points and junior Arpine Amirkhanyan chipped in 16 points before fouling out of the contest.

NSU was led by Tepe's 14 points, Jada Buckner's 12 points and Fosburgh's game-high 14 rebounds.

AASU hit just 21-of-66 shots from the floor for 31.8 percent on the evening, while NSU hit 23-of-68 shots for 33.8 percent. Both teams recorded 23 turnovers and the Sharks out rebounded the Pirates, 51-46.

Lauren Hall named PBC women's basketball Player of the Week

Courtesy of
Sports Communications

League officials named AASU senior guard Lauren Hall the Peach Belt Conference (PBC) women's basketball Player of the Week, announced on Nov. 30.

Hall averaged 22.0 points per game, while shooting 71 percent from the floor and 85 percent from 3-point range in the Lady Pirates' two games last week.

She hit 7-of-9 shots from the floor, including 6-of-8 from 3-point range, for 20 points at Newberry College on Nov. 25.

The Detroit, Mich., native then nailed 8-of-12 shots

from the floor, including all five 3-point attempts, for a career-high 24 points in AASU's 88-81 win over Pfeiffer on Nov. 29.

Hall, as of Nov. 30, is fourth in the PBC in scoring, averaging 19.2 points per game, while also leading the league in 3-point baskets made, averaging four sunk per game.

The honor is the first for Hall in her career and she is the first AASU player to earn the weekly basketball honor this season.

Hall and the Lady Pirates return to action on Dec. 5, when they open up the PBC slate with a 5:30 p.m. matchup at Augusta State.

AASU earns NSCAA Team Academic Award for 2008-09

Courtesy of Sports Communications

The AASU women's soccer squad was honored as one of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) College Team Academic Award Winners, announced by the organization for the 2008-09 academic year.

The Pirates are one of 568 men's and women's collegiate soccer programs comprising all classifications to maintain a 3.0 or better grade point average during the 2008-09 season. Head coach Eric Faulconer's squad carried a 3.36 team GPA.

AASU Sports Trivia Answers

- 1.) The AASU men's basketball team has played Augusta State 75 times in the program's history and has a 34-41 record against them all-time.
- 2.) On Feb. 1, 2006, the Pirates bested Augusta State 70-52 forcing a series split between the two teams that season.
- 3.) Back during the 2003 AASU/Chatham Orthopedics Basketball Classic, the men's team lost to Eckerd, 70-67.
- 4.) Patrick Shokpeka leads AASU with 75 points scored in the team's first four games, averaging 18.8 ppg.
- 5.) During the 2008-2009 season, Shokpeka only played 119 minutes in 26 games and scored a total of 47 points.

On the horizon

Men's Basketball:

Hampton Inn & Suites
Fall Finals Classic
Dec. 18



Vs. Mount Olive
This is the first time AASU will play them
Last seasons record 18-10

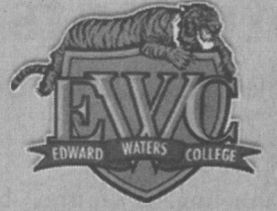
Hampton Inn & Suites
Fall Finals Classic
Dec. 19



Vs. Lenoir-Rhyne
Last time AASU played them 2008
W 65-61
Last seasons record 18-11

Women's Basketball:

Hampton Inn & Suites
Fall Finals Classic
Dec. 18



Vs. Edward Waters
Last time AASU played them 1987
L 91-70
Last seasons record 2-16

Hampton Inn & Suites
Fall Finals Classic
Dec. 19



Dec. 19
Vs. Tampa
Last time AASU played them 1989
W 56-52
Last seasons record 26-6

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'The Twilight Saga: New Moon:' Love at second bite

By John Anderson
Newsday (MCT)

Filmmaker Chris Weitz said that he knew the "Twilight" phenomenon had gone off the rails when the female immigration officer at the Canadian border already knew who he was. And when paparazzi pictures of him and his family eating hot dogs showed up on the Internet. And when he faced the audience at July's Comic-Con convention in San Diego.

"I don't know if you've ever been confronted by 7,000 screaming girls," he said. "But it's a loud sound."

And Weitz is just the director—which would seem an impolite thing to say, if Friday's release of "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" wasn't poised to eclipse everything in its path.

The second in the series based on Stephenie Meyer's young adult vampire novels, "New Moon" will further the cause of making otherworldly superstars out of whom Weitz called his "big three": Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner, all of whom have already become objects of fans' adoration and media scrutiny.

Their continued involvement in "Twilight" adds a dark note of celebrity overkill to a story already steeped in adolescent passion and impossible romance: the virginal Bella Swan (Stewart) is in love with the vampire Edward Cullen (Pattinson). And while he resists her willingness to go over to the dark side, he also risks losing her to Jacob Black (Lautner), a member of an American Indian tribe with a few undead skeletons of its own rattling around in the closet.

As we rejoin our program ... the Cullen clan is throwing a party for Bella's 18th

birthday, but when she accidentally cuts her hand, the ensuing flurry of blood lust among the immortal guests convinces the Cullens to leave their Pacific Northwest town for Bella's own good. What ensues is precisely the kind of frustrated teenage love story explored by writers from Shakespeare down to those who carve their initials in trees. Meyer is always going for ultimate pathos, but her stories also prove that successful melodrama is usually not about what it pretends to be about: the "Twilight" series may be set among vampires, but its subtext is pure wish-fulfillment and fantasy.

"It puts everyday romantic dilemmas into a supernatural context," Weitz said. "And things play out in the ways one might imagine they would play out in everyday life, but don't."

Weitz replaced "Twilight" Director Catherine Hardwicke.

"It's like 'Harry Potter,'" he said, "They'll have a new director on each film"—although that wasn't the plan originally.

He said another aspect of the tales that drags female audiences of all ages into "New Moon's" orbit is its almost chaste attitude toward ... well, you know.

"The way it addresses teen sexuality is very considered and safe," said Weitz, whose "American Pie" was anything but. "The heroine is a virgin and it's addressed that she's a virgin and that is something respected by her boyfriend; he's very careful and protective of her. That's a bit of a throwback, in a way. Actually, the fact that you mention the virginity of the character at all is a bit shocking."

Vampire stories are always eroticized—as Weitz points



Photo courtesy of MCT
Jane (Dakota Fanning) doesn't get much screen time, but when she is on screen she makes sure to stare blankly at the camera and look creepy.

out, the exchange of bodily fluids is a fairly intimate thing, even if you may not want to examine it all too clinically.

"You want to take people on an emotional ride, not necessarily an intellectual one," said Melissa Rosenberg, who thus far has scripted three "Twilight" films (the third "Twilight Saga: Eclipse," directed by David Slade, com-

pleted shooting two weeks ago). "If you're just writing about passion, you're doing, I don't know what—soft core? There has to be a journey. So it's really a coming-of-age story—it's about Bella becoming a stronger person. And by the end she has a life as she's created it for herself. The heartbreak is the whole idea of 'what doesn't kill you makes you stronger.'"

Fanatics sink fangs into 'New Moon'

By Emily Murphy
Staff Reporter

"Twi-Hards" of all ages are flocking to theaters to see the highly anticipated second part of the Twilight saga, "New Moon."

The plot of this movie picks up where the last movie left off. Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) and Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) start the film together, happy to be as normal as a half-vampire couple can be and preparing for Bella's 18th birthday. An incident occurs that forces Edward to decide leaving Bella forever is the safe way to go, and he disappears.

Bella mopes around for months and then turns to her friend Jacob (Taylor Lautner) for support and company. Jacob, a werewolf, tries to win Bella's affections to no avail. Edward returns and the movie ends on a perfect note to force tween vampire addicts to return for the impending release of "Eclipse."

Clearly made with a low budget and a pool of low-profile actors, the film

still manages to accomplish its overall goal: telling the story written in the book of the same name while making lots and lots of money. Without reading the books, or at least seeing the first movie, one might find themselves a little lost and bored.

Nothing other than the word terrible can be used to describe the acting. Kristen Stewart seems to show every emotion by shaking and breathing heavily while the rest of the cast attempts to create the awkward teen attitude commonly found in high school. Instead of the typical teenager, the cast moves on to a whole new level of awkward, one that only exists in a world that houses sparkly vampires.

Fans of the series may disagree, but the film was a slight disappointment. Its saving graces were the soundtrack and the eye-candy, but even those might not be enough to revive it.

AASU-affiliated orchestra offers opportunity to youth

By Rachel Gorton
Staff Reporter

Founded in the spring of 2004 by Lorraine Jones and Emily Calhoun, the Armstrong Atlantic Youth Orchestra (AAYO) offers a selection of musical talent. This program is non-profit and is funded by donations from Savannah Friends of Music, AASU and fundraising events, which are membership sponsored.

Auditions took place in order to be a part of this program, which means we hear only Savannah's best. Orchestra string and wind instructors took several weeks to hold sectional rehearsals and each instrument group received particular instructions. During these auditions, participants were placed into one of the five separate orchestras, which are categorized by the students' musical ability.

The first level is the Debut Strings Ensemble; this orchestra performed first and is made up of beginning string students. During rehearsals, these students work on note-reading and identifying rhythms. They learn to bring all their instruments together to form a simple orchestra.

The Lyric Strings Ensemble is also for beginning string students but ones who already know note reading and rhythms. They work on full string orchestra knowledge. The Lyric Youth Orchestra gives students opportunities to use not only string but also brass and woodwind instruments, which helps students develop skills that are needed for a full orchestra.

The Atlantic Chamber Orchestra is the intermediate level; it is a full symphonic orchestra, which means strings, brass, woodwinds

and percussions are played.

The most advanced ensemble is the AAYO, which is a full-scale symphonic orchestra. AASU students partake in this ensemble to receive course credits. Students from Savannah-Chatham high schools and neighboring counties also make this orchestra complete. All of these orchestras are under the direction of one of the most appreciated conductors in the tri-state area, Neil Casey.

As the performance progressed the playing level of the students and the complexity of the music also advanced.

"It is really fun to see the growth of the students from orchestra to orchestra during our concerts," Calhoun said.

Students are placed in levels and then continue to push themselves to reach the next level for the following concert. The AAYO put on two concerts a year. The orchestras perform a fall concert that takes place in November and a spring concert in May.

The goal of the AAYO is "to offer serious music students the opportunity to play in an accomplished orchestra while developing their musical skills," Calhoun said.

These groups of students gain valuable experiences from getting to work with professional orchestra musicians and teachers from around the Savannah area. These teachers yearn to "teach students productive studies, rehearsal, and performance habits in a joyful, rewarding, and cooperative atmosphere." Bringing students from around our area together creates an orchestra ranging from simple strings to a full ensemble of strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments.

Students dissect social stigma associated with certain tattoos

Lower back tattoos as "tramp stamps"—true statement or misogynist misconception?

By Tabetha Hardy
Staff Reporter

"Labeling a tattoo because of location is absurd," said Tracey Witbeck, an art major at SCAD. She may have a point, but this hasn't stopped a generation of youngsters from giving the lower back tattoo a less-than-savory nickname: the "tramp stamp."

The phrase's implication is clear—females who sport a tattoo on their lower backs are nothing more than promiscuous floozies. The tattoo itself, then, is a means of marking oneself for male attention.

The phrase has gained widespread popularity over the past few years. A search for "tramp stamp" on urbandictionary.com pulls up 38 separate definitions.

"It wasn't until about eight

years ago when that phrase came about," said Mike Garrison, who has been in the tattoo business for 20 years. "In ancient history the curve of the female form has been accentuated to show femininity and womanhood. Some cultures wouldn't let girls get tattoos until they became a woman, of child-bearing age, as a rite of passage."

Garrison also mentioned that in the mid to late '70s, women started riding motorcycles. That is when the lower back tattoo became visible. Women who rode in motorcycle gangs had "property of" tattoos with wings on either side on their lower back.

Today, most people use tattoos as a means of self-expression. Many tattoos are a memorial to a family mem-

ber or friend, a time in the person's life or an inspiring reminder.

Chelsea Utley received her first tattoo after her father died. She decided to have a cross put it in the middle of her back because she needed to have it concealed for work. She wants to get a lower back tattoo of a butterfly with the meaning "new life."

"I think that it doesn't matter where you get it, it matters what it means to you personally," Utley said.

Some people especially like lower back tattoos.

"I think [lower back tattoos] are hot and am sorry they have the negative association of a tramp stamp," said SCAD student Kimmi Sampieri.

Not everybody thinks that way.

"I think [lower back tattoos] are gaudy. I think there is a much better location for them," said Anne Busby, an AASU student. "They should be for yourself, not for others."

She wants to get a tattoo on her shoulder blade so it is concealed.

Tegan Simmons has three tattoos, one on her wrist, arm and ankle. She uses the term "tramp stamp" and said, "Most of the time it's ac-

curate. Everybody has the right to have tattoos. It is a stereotype. They are there for a reason."

Some people feel differently about putting a tattoo anywhere on their back. Witbeck has eight tattoos; as an art major she feels like it is body art.

"If you enjoy art, putting it on your body is a cool concept," said Witbeck. She wouldn't put a tattoo anywhere on her back because she thinks that the back is a beautiful part of the body.

Some women have other reasons for not getting a lower back tattoo.

"I don't want to draw attention to my lower back," said AASU student Alex Hearn. "I have nothing against them."

She also said that if a girl has a lower back tattoo then "she likes her physique and likes people to look at her body." Hearn finds the term funny and probably inaccurate.

Elijah Garrison, owner of Skin Arte' De Atelier, said, "[A lower back tattoo] can be



Photos by Tabetha Hardy

Tracey Witbeck's forearm tattoo, a hand holding a picture, illustrates how many use tattoos as a means of memorial.



Tracey Witbeck's shows off her behind-the-ear tattoo of a feather.

Stay
Entertained
in Savannah

Weekend Music

Dec. 4 features a performance by the New York Disco Villains at the Wormhole Bar. According to the Wormhole's web site, the Villains play "80's New Wave Broadway Showtunes for Carnivals," a combination that appears both eclectic and electrifying.

Dec. 5 features a smattering of shows at select downtown venues, including chamber-pop group TrEas at the Sentient Bean and Do it to Julia, a folk rock quintet, at Live Wire Music Hall.

At The Movies

The upcoming winter break contains a handful of new releases, all of which are interesting in their own ways. Of particular interest is "Up In The Air," a comedy about George Clooney's quest to reach 10 million frequent flier miles. The movie receives a wide release on Christmas.

Dec. 4 sees the release of "Transylmania," a horror spoof that tackles the current vampire craze, among other things. It also promises the sort of raunchy humor present in recent hits like "The Hangover" and "Funny People."

Beautiful World

Dec. 11 brings Jim Brickman to the Johnny Mercer Theatre as part of his "Beautiful World" Christmas tour. Brickman, a solo pianist, is a dynamic performer who brings a fresh take on the somewhat old-fashioned world of solo piano. The show will see him perform both solo and alongside a variety of vocalists in what should be an excellent warm-up for the Christmas holidays.

Stay Home



"The Hangover" and others

December sees a wide variety of DVDs being released just in time for the holidays, meaning that you'll be able to make sure that your best friend gets their favorite movie of 2009 in Blu-Ray before you can say "Auld Lang Syne."

The crown jewel of the bunch—at least for college students—is "The Hangover," the surprise hit of the summer that details three friends' hangover in Las Vegas. "The Hangover" hits Blu-Ray and DVD on Dec. 15.

Also seeing DVD releases: "Julie & Julia" on Dec. 8 and "Extract" on Dec. 22.

Senior artists show off their skills at Senior Art Exhibition



(Above) Freshman Domino Major checks out the digital illustrations of senior Matt Hefner Monday in the AASU Fine Arts Gallery. (Above, right) Senior Andrew Bufalini examines a ceramics project by Christine Hefner.

Briana Higgins in dual roles as artist, narrator

By Daniel Amrhein
Staff Reporter

Briana Higgins is a visual storyteller. She writes and illustrates the award winning web comic "Rune Masters: Tales of a Demon Slayer" and continues to work on other narrative projects.

"I've always loved doodling," Higgins said, "but I've also always loved storytelling and cultural studies. I create art to invent new, interesting characters and tales to share with others."

Higgins specializes in character designs.

"The characters she creates not only have visual appeal," said AASU professor Angela Ryczkowski-Horne, "they also have intricately developed stories."

In addition to a large number of character designs, Higgins will also display a page from her web comic, a hand-made book written in the artist's own language and a key for deciphering the text.

"I love storytelling—all my work relates back to that, and



Photo courtesy of AMT Department
Don't let the monocle fool you—Higgins is a talented comic artist. ... focuses even more specifically on character concepts," Higgins said. "Anything that relates to the two falls into my work, though I do tend to favor traditional fantasy elements and humor."

Higgins creates most of her work digitally, although she is also displaying traditional painting as well.

For more of Higgins' work, over 700 pages of "Rune Masters: Tales of a Demon Slayer" is available for viewing at www.rmtoads.com. The site updates daily Monday through Friday.

Jennifer Ashley displays clean graphic design

By Daniel Amrhein
Staff Reporter

Jennifer Ashley strives to create work that is both alluring and accessible.

"I like creating something beautiful and sharing it with others," she said. "It is an integral part of who I am."

With such a passion to share her work, it is no wonder that Ashley has chosen to express herself through graphic design and illustration.

"My goal is to create art that is imaginative and also useful," Ashley said.

"Jeni has been working towards children's book illustration while also demonstrating a high level of skill in graphic design print work," said AASU professor Angela Ryczkowski-Horne. This design work includes package design, event posters and a magazine mockup, all of which are on display in the

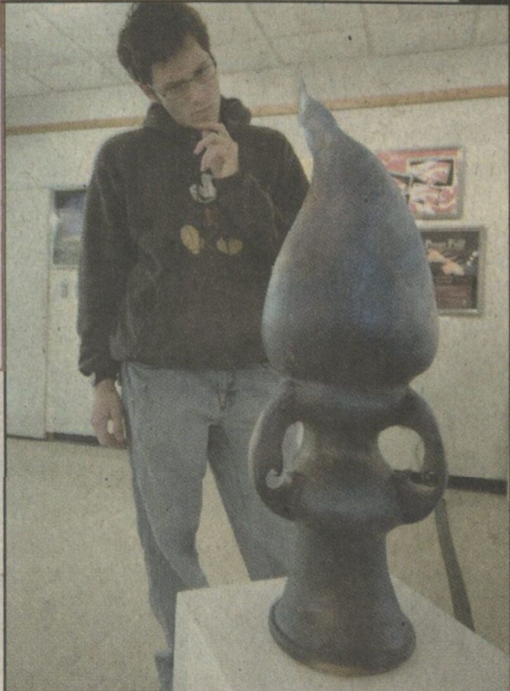
Senior Graduation Art Exhibition.

While she makes use of her computer skills to create her graphic design work, Ashley is also skilled in more traditional media.

"I prefer pastels and pencils because I feel at ease with them, and they best convey my artistic style," Ashley said.

In addition to her student work, Ashley has begun to pursue a career.

"Jeni has already begun to collaborate with two other individuals across the country to create a children's book," Ryczkowski-Horne said.



Senior Bruce Carr contemplates a ceramic sculpture by Alicia Perez currently on display as part of the Senior Art Exhibition in the AASU Fine Arts Gallery.



Photo courtesy of AMT Department
Digital imagery, pastel-and-pencil drawings and children's books—Ashley is a multitasking artist.

Raphyel Jordan turns his computer skills into art

By Daniel Amrhein
Staff Reporter

Raphyel Jordan excels at graphic design and computer illustration. His creative process blends a vast repertoire of computer skills with extensive artistic training.

"Technology has done wondrous things for art," he said.

Whether he is painting in Adobe Photoshop to create an illustration or tweaking text and fonts, the computer is essential to Jordan's art.

Jordan's works in the Senior Graduation Art Exhibition include a number of event posters, corporate identity designs and personal design work for a story he is writing.

"Raphyel is able to show a range of work in the show with the common thread of an illustrative influence,"

said Angela Ryczkowski-Horne, AASU professor of art. "Even the vector artwork used in his corporate identities evokes certain qualities that align with his digital illustrations."

These illustrative qualities are the uniting force behind Jordan's work.

"I'm a graphic designer," he said. "I market for the public. Thus, I'm at their service when it comes to subject matter and themes."

While he may not always be able to pick his subject, his style is all his own.

"When all is said and done, I want the viewer to see the

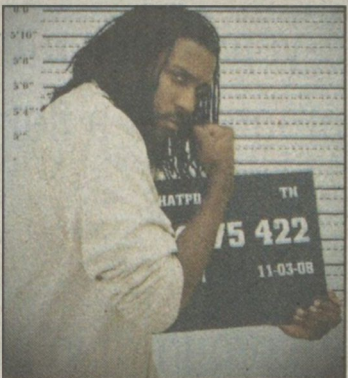


Photo courtesy of AMT Department
Raphyel Jordan is riding the wave of technology to artistic success.

passion in every mark I put in my work. Whether it's the stroke of a paint brush or the shape of a particular font," Jordan said, "no action in any of my art is taken lightly."

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